

## Andrew Jackson to Andrew Jackson, Jr., March 1, 1836, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

TO ANDREW JACKSON, JR.

Washington, March 1, 1836.

*my son*, you are taking a Journey to explore and determine whether you will conclude the contract finally with Doctor Gwinn—you are without much experience in life, and unacquainted with the nature of the country you are about to explore, and your future welfare and that of your dear little family may in a great degree depend on the selection you make. I would then suggest, that you examine well the quality of the land by passing round the sections, and through them by their legal subdivisions of quarter sections.

That country is Subject to inundation, and greatly intersected by Lagoons, Cypress swamps, and lakes. you may pass around a section, find its exterior good and its interiore Lakes or lagoons, so it may be that its exterior may be swamps and its interior good, but where this is the case, you cannot in that latitude calculate on health, and to settle hands in an unhealthy situation your loss by sickness and death may be more than the proceeds of your crop—your Doctors bill, and the loss of the labour of hands by sickness, may involve you in debt, and ruin a young beginner; therefore you must view the situation as to health with as carefull an eye as you do the quality of the land, and look with an Eagles eye to the marks of high water—flooded land is worth nothing, as you may rest assured in that climate it will be sickly, and in [no] part of that country can it be safe by levying except on the mississippi river. Therefore buy no land for cultivation as a farm that overflows—the price you are to give requires that it should be good land and clear of being flooded.

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All good land in that country is covered with strong cain, and the growth large Ash, Walnutt, poplar, pacan and lynn,<sup>1</sup> with large cotton wood in places, but where the cotton tree grows it is apt to be subject to

<sup>1</sup> Pecan and lime seem to be intended.

being flooded at particular seasons of high freshetts. You must get at chockuma<sup>2</sup> a correct plot of the Townships, with its sections, and note each section by whom bought or entered and each half and quarter section, leaving those vacant, noted if any there be, so that you may examine, and if found good that you may enter them—if you find any vacant and good land adjoining those you have contracted for from Dr Gwinn, by entering them, you may add to the vallue of your purchase, should you conclude to close the contract—but unless the land is good, and lies high above freshets, I mean the greater part, I would advise you not to buy, as the lands on the mississippi above the chikisaw line will soon be surveyed and come into market. Should you close the contract and find vacant Land adjoining, that is good, you must go into Bank for the mony, if you can get a credit until next fall for what will enter three sections, if that much vacant good land can be found adjoining your purchase, Or for a less sum if you cannot find three sections of vacant land or to that amou[n]t that will enter what vacant land, if any good. You can raise this sum by drawing a bill on me payable in january next. But my dear son, unless you like the land and it is good and promises health neither buy nor enter, as you will have sufficient time next fall to explore and purchase in the chikisaw lands unsurveyed and which will be brought into market next fall, or winter.

<sup>2</sup> Chocchuma, a town now extinct, in northern Mississippi, near present Grenada. The United States land office was there in 1835.

For any necessary expences to bring you here, you will, if our cotton should not be sold and the amount remitted to Nashville draw upon me, but keep in mind that my funds are

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low, and the danger of becoming indebted—we have a competency, which you ought not to risque by doubtfull speculations. Remember how many have been ruined by. . . .3

3 Manuscript incomplete.